

## Community resources

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*courage is contagious*

## Viewing cable 09QUITO112, GOE REMAINS ON ATTACK AGAINST EMBASSY

If you are new to these pages, please read an introduction on the [structure of a cable](#) as well as how to [discuss them](#) with others. See also the [FAQs](#)

### Understanding cables

Every cable message consists of three parts:

- The top box shows each cables unique reference number, when and by whom it originally was sent, and what its initial classification was.
- The middle box contains the header information that is associated with the cable. It includes information about the receiver(s) as well as a general subject.
- The bottom box presents the body of the cable. The opening can contain a more specific subject, references to other cables ([browse by origin](#) to find them) or additional comment. This is followed by the main contents of the cable: a summary, a collection of specific topics and a comment section.

To understand the justification used for the classification of each cable, please use this [WikiSource](#) article as reference.

### Discussing cables

If you find meaningful or important information in a cable, please link directly to its unique reference number. Linking to a specific paragraph in the body of a cable is also possible by copying the appropriate link (to be found at the paragraph symbol). Please mark messages for social networking services like Twitter with the hash tags **#cablegate** and a hash containing the reference ID e.g. **#09QUITO112**.

Reference ID	Created	Released	Classification	Origin
<a href="#">09QUITO112</a>	<a href="#">2009-02-13 22:54</a>	<a href="#">2011-08-30 01:44</a>	<a href="#">CONFIDENTIAL</a>	<a href="#">Embassy Quito</a>

Appears in these articles:

<http://www.eluniverso.com/2011/04/07/1/1355/cable-192204.html>

VZCZCXYZ0000  
OO RUEHWEB

DE RUEHQT #0112/01 0442254  
ZNY CCCCC ZZH  
O 132254Z FEB 09  
FM AMEMBASSY QUITO  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0024  
INFO RUEHBO/AMEMBASSY BOGOTA 7959  
RUEHBR/AMEMBASSY BRASILIA 4081  
RUEHBU/AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES 0799  
RUEHCV/AMEMBASSY CARACAS 3382  
RUEHGT/AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA 1046  
RUEHLP/AMEMBASSY LA PAZ FEB LIMA 3025  
RUEHME/AMEMBASSY MEXICO 1822  
RUEHOT/AMEMBASSY OTTAWA 0649  
RUEHZP/AMEMBASSY PANAMA 0971  
RUEHSG/AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO 3094  
RUEHDG/AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO 0223  
RUEHGL/AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL 4092  
RHEFHL/DEPT OF HOMELAND SECURITY WASHINGTON DC  
RUEAWJA/DEPT OF JUSTICE WASHDC  
RHMFISS/HQ USSOUTHCOM MIAMI FL  
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC  
RHEFDIA/DIA WASHINGTON DC  
RHMFISS/CDR USSOUTHCOM MIAMI FL  
RUEABND/DEA HQS WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L QUITO 000112

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: TWENTY YEARS  
TAGS: [PREL](#) [SNAR](#) [PTER](#) [KCRM](#) [EC](#)  
SUBJECT: GOE REMAINS ON ATTACK AGAINST EMBASSY

REF: A. QUITO 109  
[1](#)B. QUITO 103  
[1](#)C. QUITO 100

Classified By: Ambassado...

id: 192204  
date: 2/13/2009 22:54  
refid: 09QUITO112  
origin: Embassy Quito  
classification: CONFIDENTIAL  
destination: 09QUITO100|09QUITO103|09QUITO109  
header:  
VZCZCXYZ0000  
OO RUEHWEB

DE RUEHQT #0112/01 0442254  
ZNY CCCCC ZZH  
O 132254Z FEB 09  
FM AMEMBASSY QUITO  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0024  
INFO RUEHBO/AMEMBASSY BOGOTA 7959  
RUEHBR/AMEMBASSY BRASILIA 4081  
RUEHBU/AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES 0799  
RUEHCV/AMEMBASSY CARACAS 3382  
RUEHGT/AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA 1046  
RUEHLP/AMEMBASSY LA PAZ FEB LIMA 3025  
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RUEHOT/AMEMBASSY OTTAWA 0649  
RUEHZP/AMEMBASSY PANAMA 0971  
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RUEHDG/AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO 0223  
RUEHGL/AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL 4092  
RHEFHLC/DEPT OF HOMELAND SECURITY WASHINGTON DC  
RUEAWJA/DEPT OF JUSTICE WASHDC  
RHMFISS/HQ USSOUTHCOM MIAMI FL  
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC  
RHEFDIA/DIA WASHINGTON DC  
RHMFISS/CDR USSOUTHCOM MIAMI FL  
RUEABND/DEA HQS WASHDC

----- header ends -----

C O N F I D E N T I A L QUITO 000112

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: TWENTY YEARS  
TAGS: [PREL](#) [SNAR](#) [PTER](#) [KCRM](#) [EC](#)  
SUBJECT: GOE REMAINS ON ATTACK AGAINST EMBASSY

REF: A. QUITO 109  
[1](#)B. QUITO 103  
[1](#)C. QUITO 100

Classified By: Ambassador Heather M. Hodges for Reasons 1.4 (b&d)

[1](#)1. (C) Summary: Both President Correa and Minister Carvajal condemned the Embassy's actions with regard to vetted units publicly throughout the week of February 9. The Department's February 9 statement that the USG would work through diplomatic channels to address Correa's concerns and Carvajal's statement to the Ambassador that the GOE would look for a way to continue cooperation (Ref A) did not stop the stream of hostile public rhetoric. In an attempt to portray the Embassy as out of synch with Washington, the Ecuadorian Presidency website released Ecuadorian Ambassador Gallegos' internal reports on a congressional call and a DHS/ICE official's comments. End Summary

## BASHING THE USG

¶2. (C) The litany of hostile GOE rhetoric during the week of February 9 targeted Embassy support for two units, the Center for Anti-Contraband Operations (COAC) and the Special Investigations Unit (UIES):

-- President Rafael Correa warned police that the GOE was investigating the "robbery" of equipment and information by U.S. Embassy personnel (referring to the USG-owned equipment that was returned to the Embassy). He said this included investigating the individual police officers who permitted this to take place. He made these comments February 9 while opening a Maritime Rescue Coordination Center in Guayaquil. Correa stressed that the police officers needed to remember that they work for Ecuador, not the U.S.

-- Coordinating Minister for Internal and External Security Miguel Carvajal said February 10 that the DHS Attache not only cut off cooperation with the police, but also took Ecuadorian security information with him when he departed the country. He called this a threat to Ecuador's national security, saying this was security information of the Ecuadorian state based on years of investigative work.

-- During the ceremony where new Minister of Government and Police Gustavo Jalkh assumed his position on February 11, Correa instructed Jalkh to determine which police officers took this action (returning equipment and data to the U.S. Embassy), saying he wanted them immediately separated from the institution. Correa reportedly said, "There are enemies embedded from within who were trying to torpedo this change (that his government is undertaking) to boycott and destabilize the government. They became used to living on the charity of the powerful." Jalkh called the police actions "treason" against government institutions.

-- Minister Carvajal told the press on February 11 that the GOE was investigating the current leadership of the U.S.-supported UIES (even though the UIES leadership the USG had worked with had already been transferred), who he claimed were responsible for returning the equipment to the U.S. Embassy. He said the GOE would do a technical investigation of the computers (which the Embassy returned to UIES on February 9) to determine if all of the information had been returned. "We hope the information has not been manipulated," he stressed. Carvajal said the GOE would review all of the police's international agreements.

¶3. (SBU) In a more positive tone during a February 13 interview, Minister Carvajal said, "It is in our interest to maintain cooperation in all areas, including security and intelligence, with everyone, including the U.S., but cooperation that is clear and respectful, observing our different perspectives, and with the knowledge and authorization of the political authorities of the government."

## PRESIDENCY ARTICLE SEEKS TO SPLIT USG

¶4. (SBU) The afternoon of February 12, the top article on the Ecuadorian Presidency website reported on a conversation that Ecuadorian Ambassador to Washington Luis Gallegos had with a U.S. Member of Congress. It claimed that the Member of Congress agreed with Correa's critique of Embassy actions and considered them inconsistent with Obama Administration policy. The attachment to the article, which contained what appeared to be the text of the Ecuadorian Embassy's reports, stated that a Department of Homeland Security/Immigration and Customs Enforcement (DHS/ICE) official had apologized to Gallegos and that the agency did not authorize the DHS/ICE Attache's January 8 letter.

¶5. (C) Post understands that these reports are not entirely accurate renditions of those conversations. The article's intent was clear: to support the GOE's position and to suggest that the Embassy is free-lancing rather than acting on Washington's instructions. By mid-morning on February 13,

the article had been removed from a prominent location on the Presidency website, although it could still be found by searching.

COMMENT

¶6. (C) A local radio commentator and several of our contacts have suggested that the GOE is beating the drum on our vetted units to boost support for Correa and other Proud and Sovereign Fatherland (PAIS) candidates in the April 26 elections. Along those same lines, a Latin American diplomat described Correa's comments as playing David to the U.S. Goliath, saying Ecuadorians, like other Latin Americans, always sympathize with the underdog. We remain convinced, however, that while electoral considerations may play a part, Correa is primarily motivated by a desire to distract attention from the unfolding scandal over his government's ties to FARC narco-traffickers (Ref B). We would not be surprised if Correa continues his attack during his radio/television address tomorrow (February 14).

HODGES

=====CABLE ENDS=====